



COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2010
Human Resources Training Room
575 Administration Drive, Suite 117C, Santa Rosa CA 95403

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chris Allen, Christina Brenner (Vice Chair), Jan DeWald, Karen Famini, Jan Kiely (Chair) Donna Roper (Officer at Large), Priscilla Vivio

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Liz Acosta, Mary Basham (both notified), Lisa Maldonado

JUNIOR COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Katherine Salinger, Lauren Walsh

STAFF PRESENT: Nadine Jaillet

GUESTS PRESENT:

I. CALL TO ORDER – INTRODUCTION OF COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS:

Kiely called the meeting to order at 6:07 PM.

II. CONSENT ITEMS:

Roper motioned to approve the January 14, 2010 Agenda and the December 10, 2009 Draft Commission Minutes, Vivio seconded.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Dian Hardy asked the Commission for leads on banks and lending institutions that favor funding women and minorities in start-up business. Kiely suggested contacting the local small business administration (SBA) in the county. The SBA is helpful for writing proposals when seeking funding. Ms. Hardy thanked the Commission for their time and the lead.

IV. APPOINTMENTS AND OPENINGS:

Kiely announced the current vacancies are: none in the 1st District, two in the 2nd, one in the 3rd, one in the 4th, and one in the 5th, totaling five openings.

V. SUPERVISOR COMMUNICATION UPDATES:

Roper met with Supervisor Carrillo to discuss his concerns about the Latina dropout rate and teen pregnancy issues, and if and how the CSW can assist. Carrillo is aware that the Sonoma County Office of Education (SCOE) is addressing these issues, and he feels the CSW needs to be aware of the situation.



Carrillo asked if the Junior Commissioners have any information or insight into these two topics. Famini said the Juniors did not discuss this issue at their last meeting.

VI. OLD BUSINESS:

Work Plan:

No update this month.

Publicity Outreach Follow-up:

Roper discussed the PowerPoint presentation, noting there is room to add to it if needed for specific presentations, and it is easy to do. The group wants to show the PowerPoint to the community within a year, and brainstormed ways to accomplish this. One idea is to send an email to community organizations such as Rotary, Soroptimists, Association of American University Women, League of Women Voters, and National Organization of Women, listing what the CSW is currently working on, and inviting them to call for a presentation. Jaillet can send press releases to media. Roper and Vivio will provide email addresses for organization contacts to Jaillet.

Family Court Presentation:

No presentation. Famini recalled that Ms. Barnett would return if she had information other than what was presented at the December Commission meeting. It was assumed there was no new information.

VII. NEW BUSINESS:

Letter to Editor:

Roper motioned to send a new commissioner recruitment press release and women's history month press release out as soon as possible. Famini seconded. All in favor. Jaillet will send both.

Possible Move of Commission to District Attorney's Office:

Kiely met with District Attorney Passalacqua, Assistant District Attorney Cook, and two other Assistant Attorneys. Kiely shared the following from the meeting: Supervisor Brown joined Supervisor Zane's lead, in approaching the District Attorney to explore the possibility of moving the Commission on the Status of Women and the Commission on Human Rights to his jurisdiction. Roper asked what value Supervisors Zane and Brown see the District Attorney offering the Commissions? Kiely responded that operating under the District Attorney would make the Commissions more visible, more engaged, and have more opportunity to actually get involved in issues. The Human Resources Department, where the Commissions are currently operating, has not added to the visibility of the Commissions.

Famini offered to ask Supervisor Brown why she is in favor of the Commissions moving.

Some Commissioner responses to the proposed change were:

- The District Attorney prosecutes violations of the Brown Act, so what would happen if the Commission violated the Brown Act?

- Brenner asked if the model exists elsewhere; does a CSW exist under the District Attorney in any other county in the state? If it does, she suggested contacting the Commission to ask how well it is working, to audit the efficacy. Brenner reminded all that the District Attorney is an elected position, and with that is the possibility of the Commissions' work being politicized. Brenner is also concerned about delivery when Commissioners need help; interjecting the CSW into the busy District Attorney office may bear down when Commissioners need something.
- Roper is concerned over losing the historical knowledge of current Commission staff. She asked how moving the Commissions would affect Jaillet – would Jaillet's work schedule go to part-time?
- Famini said she has reservations on the proposed move, and commented the CSW scaled back on its work due to the low number of Commissioners.

The District Attorneys had questions as well. Some questions were:

- how much space is needed to store Commission supplies and related?
- how many hours of staff time does each Commission use?
- what does the Commission do?
- what would District Attorney staff be responsible for?

Passalacqua said the Commission budget would remain the same if the Commission moved to his office.

Kiely asked the group: ideally, what would you like the CSW to look like? Famini would like to offer speaker bureaus, host forums and trainings, and to be a resource for the community. She would also like another Commissioner, or more, to help with the Junior Commissioner Project. Brenner would like Commissioners to have access to trainings offered by the County. Kiely asked for Commissioner opinions on the proposed move as soon as possible, to carry back to the District Attorney, as Supervisors Zane and Brown are anxious to move forward. Kiely was asked who makes the decision on where the Commissions will operate. Kiely answered that the Board of Supervisors make the decision.

Discussion of How Commission Corresponds:

Commissioner email addresses, use of, and privacy, was discussed. Roper suggested using the bc field to hide email addresses when corresponding. Kiely will review the Brown Act at the next Commission meeting. It is okay for Commissioners to send a group email for setting dates and times to meet, but any topic content needs to go through Jaillet to send to the group. Same procedure applies to the Junior Commissioner Project.

VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS:

Junior Commission (Famini):

Famini introduced Junior Commissioners Lauren and Katherine. The Juniors reported on their January 12 Junior Commission meeting. The meeting consisted of amending and approving the December draft Minutes, receiving the Junior Commissioner Liaison report for the December CSW meeting, giving focus group updates – forming questions, and discussing the February 2, 2010 Junior Commission meeting with career panel.

Women's History Month (Bahsam):

No report this month. The Commission will vote at the February meeting to take an Agenda Item recognizing March as Women's History Month to the Board of Supervisors. The item is not on the January Agenda, so the Commission is unable to vote tonight.

Kiely asked Jaillet to prepare a Board of Supervisors Agenda Item recognizing March as Women's History Month, in advance of the February 11 Commission meeting.

Community Issues Liaison & Coordinators:

- ◇ **ACCW (Association of California Commissions on Women) Liaison (Acosta):**
No report this month.
- ◇ **AAA (Area Agency on Aging) Liaison (Kiely):**
The December meeting was cancelled. There is a meeting scheduled for next week.
- ◇ **Career Technical Education and Non-Traditional Career Liaison (Brenner):**
Brenner stepped away from this position due to accepting full-time employment. The Commission will motion for a Commissioner to fill this role at the February meeting.
- ◇ **Domestic Violence Liaison (Roper):**
Roper is waiting to hear back from Assistant District Attorney Cook. Brenner suggested contacting Cook's Assistant for follow-up.
- ◇ **Human Trafficking Liaison (Brenner):**
Brenner reported there has not been a meeting.
- ◇ **Juvenile Justice Liaison (Maldonado):**
No report.
- ◇ **Legislation Coordinator (Vivio):**
No report this month. There has been a lot of budget cut discussion.
- ◇ **Representation Coordinator (Roper):**
Roper met with Diana Ruiz of Women's Global Leadership Initiative and Pat Sheehan of the Sonoma County Women's Political Caucus, to discuss working together on a 'how to get elected' workshop. Ruiz and Sheehan agreed to help promote the workshop through their email lists. Roper will again use California Women Lead to produce the workshop, choosing the lower \$1000.00 rate. Roper will check with Acosta to be sure the workshop is held before the next running announcement date.

IX. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Attendance Report Distribution:

The attendance report was distributed. Kiely will write a year in review memo to the Board of Supervisors, reflecting Commissioner meeting attendance.

Budget Report Distribution:

The budget report was distributed.

Correspondence:

The mailbag was electronically distributed January 13, 2010.

X. AGENDA ITEMS FOR NEXT COMMISSION MEETING:

- Scholarship Fund – what are the next steps? Brenner needs the letter back. Jaillet will distribute the scholarship fund solicitation letter to past Commissioners, Junior Commissioners, Soroptimists, etc. once it has been finalized.
- Board of Supervisors Agenda Item for Women's History Month.

XI. COMMISSIONER ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Roper and Famini are attending a dinner in honor of Maestra JoAnn Falletta.

XII. NEXT MEETING:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, February 11, 2010 at 6:00 PM.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

Kiely adjourned the meeting at 7:30 PM.